



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Saguaro National Park
Tucson, AZ 85730

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Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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FEBRUARY PROGRAMS OFFERED AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this winter that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

Special Programs offered at the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:

February 4 and 25 **3:00 p.m.** **Silhouettes at Sundown** *2½ hours, 2½ mile hike*
Trek along an arroyo as the setting sun magically silhouettes the Southwest's most famous icon – the giant saguaro. Reservations are required, please call 733-5158. The February 25th hike begins at 3:30 p.m.

February 13 **2:30 p.m.** **Wasson Peak Moonlight Hike** *6½ to 7 hours, 8 miles*
This hike climbs 1,700 feet to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Enjoy the 360° view of the sunset; then descend by the light of the moon. The hike is at an easy pace but is considered difficult due to the elevation gain and hiking after dark. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

February 14 **4:30 p.m.** **Twilight Glow to Moon Shadows** *2 mile hike*
This easy 3½-hour stroll bridges sunset and darkness, letting hikers experience the desert both in the twilight glow and in moon shadows. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

February 15 **3:45 p.m.** **Sunset Hike** *3½ mile hike*
This 3½-hour hike climbs 700 feet (with some switchbacks) before reaching a beautiful ridgeline for the sunset. The descent is by the light of the moon. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5158.

February 16 **4:30 p.m.** **Moon Take Night Make Day Hike** *2½ mile hike*
Hikers on this gentle, relatively flat 3-hour hike travel up a desert wash during the transition from day to night, enjoy the sunset atop a hill, then return under the moonlight. Reservations are required, please call 733-5158.

February 18 **7:30 p.m.** **Moonrise Over the Mountains** *45 minute patio talk*
Relax around a campfire on the visitor center patio as the full moon rises above the cactus forest. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No reservations required. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

February 19 **2:00 p.m.** **Yesterday, Today ...and Saguaro?** *Guest speaker*
Guest Speaker Jeff Wallner will address what the world's changing climate means for the National Parks? Will our children find glaciers in Glacier, coral reefs in Hawaii, Joshua trees in Joshua Tree. Ranger Wallner will pose questions that only your future decisions can answer. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

February 27 **2:00 p.m.** **Saguaro Book Club** *1½ hour discussion*
This month we will be discussing *The Turquoise Ledge: A Memoir* by Leslie Marmon Silko. Weather permitting, we may hold the discussion outdoors.

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

February 2 **7:00 p.m.** **Star Party**
Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

February 4, 11, 16 & 25 **8:30 a.m.** **Desert Bird Walk** *easy hike*
Join volunteer naturalists Vicki Powers and Ralph Terry for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

February 4, 11, 18 & 25 **9:00 a.m.** **Cowboys in the Rincon Valley** *2½ mile hike*
Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour hike to explore the history and nature of the Rincon Valley. Meet at the visitor center, then caravan to the Hope Camp Trail. Wear comfortable hiking shoes, a hat and bring water and a snack.

February 5, 19 & 26 **5:15 p.m.** **Sunset Stroll** *½ mile hike*
Join a park ranger for a stroll up Tanque Verde Ridge to enjoy a Sonoran Desert sunset. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water.

February 6, 13, 20 & 27 **11:00 a.m.** **The Places in Between** *Presentation*
With human populations still on the rise, the wide open spaces available for protection are shrinking. Join park staff in the visitor center auditorium to find out about on-going efforts to ensure that critical migratory links remain intact. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

February 6, 13, 20 & 27 **2:00 p.m.** **Yesterday, Today ...and Saguaro?** *¼ mile walk*
Change is coming to the Cactus Forest and we can't do anything about it! But don't worry – change has been happening here for thousands of years. Come explore the life cycles of the saguaro cactus and the changing face of its Sonoran Desert home on this ¼ mile, 90-minute walk.

February 11 & 25 **7:00 p.m.** **Night Walk** *1 mile Hike*
Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, Reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

February 24 **7:00 p.m.** **Here Come the Hummers** *Presentation*
Join naturalist Neil Travis to learn about the hummingbirds found in the Sonoran Desert – those who live here year-round and those who will be migrating back to the area soon. This program will be held in the visitor center auditorium. Reservations are required, please call 733-5153. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
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For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.wnpa.org
www.rinconinstitute.org